

## SIMILAR PARTS RETRIEVAL METHOD/DEVICE

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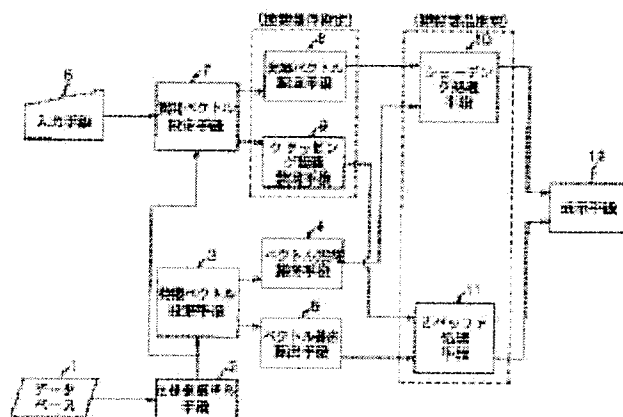
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### Abstract of JP 11184861 (A)

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide similar parts retrieval method/device for retrieving at high speed similar parts whose design is changed and for clearly displaying a retrieval result. **SOLUTION:** A vector having a specification value which is read from a data base 1 where plural parts and specification values of parts are previously stored as elements is set as a feature vector for respective parts in a feature vector setting means 3. A vector direction calculation means 4 calculates the direction of the feature vector. A question vector setting means 7 sets a vector having as an element the specification value of changed parts with a design change as a question vector. A shading processing means 10 displays similar parts as display graphics of luminance brighter than other parts so as to retrieve them based on the directions of the feature vectors of the respective parts and the direction of a light source, which is set to a direction matched with the direction of the question vector.



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